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## General Summary of News;

### EUROPE.

It is seldom that the intervals between the arrivals of ships from England are sufficiently long to admit of our laying before our readers half the interesting matter that every series of English Papers brings us, and we are consequently obliged to glance at the heads of information, and leave the details often untouched. We have suspended to-day, several claims of our Correspondents in order to make room for many of the articles of European intelligence which have not yet been presented to the Indian Public through the medium of the Papers; the first of which is one on the New Taxes, which contains unfortunately too much of truth, though told perhaps in an unpalatable shape, by the independent Editor of the Political Examiner.

We think we have got pretty well used to Ministers by this time,—their witless arguments and heartless proceedings; yet we must confess we have been fairly astonished at their new proposals of taxation.

At the moment when the people are absolutely lying down and panting under their burdens,—when the partial reliefs from war-incumbrances have not given them time enough to recover from the galling soreness,—when in order to soothe them, they have been told over and over again how much lighter their situation would become every day,—and when the manufacturing districts, one after the other, are roused almost to madness,—at such a moment the placemen, pensioners, and sinecurists, come forward to saddle them with a permanent peace taxation of three millions of money!

This indeed is a specimen of the lengths to which people will go, who have had a long security of corruption, and who as far as Parliament are concerned present us only with a nominal responsibility! Well may they maintain, together with their sinecures, corruptions, and luxuries, a standing-army! Well may they keep up the constitutional instrument to defend the rest of their unconstitutional establishments! Well may they alone, in fact, remain in war with us, when every other power in the world is at peace!

The Chancellor of Exchequer has the face to avow the real ground on which these new taxes are proposed. He cannot help it indeed, if he and his fellow-corruptionists must go on lording and hoarding it over us; but then where is the necessity? The Ministers have hampered themselves with the Stock-holders; and contrary to their repeated assertions about the Sinking Fund, they find themselves unable to pay their debts, and so they tell us they must come upon the public in order to pay the public creditor. Mr. Pitt's famous schemes are found wanting; and the excuse now assigned for it by those disciples who always asserted their perfection, and pinned all their future credit upon adhering to them, is, that that provident and all-seeing personage could not have contemplated the possibility of the enormous drain upon the public purse! Now this is the very thing which his opponents all said, both Whigs and Reformers; they all said, that he did not see what he was driving to; and so the accomplishment of their prophecy is to be the apology for his want of foresight!

The other Ministers argue the propriety of this monstrous proposal in the same callous way. Mr. Canning, whose very common sense is overturned by his want of feeling, tells his weary and disgusted countrymen that because they have borne upwards of 18 millions' load of taxation, they surely cannot object to so small a load as three millions! Now even "the last feather breaks the horse's back;" but this is a lumping weight; and though not laid upon a back loaded with all its former burden, is laid upon a back sore and tired with bearing that burden, and God knows still loaded almost beyond endurance. Suppose any body were to kick a Minister 18 times; and then propose, that as he had had the patience to put up with those twice nine gentilities, three more could do him no harm. The argument might be good in one respect, but it would at least be insulting; and such is the way in which Ministers insult the country that bears with them.

Then comes Mr. Huskisson, who because Mr. Tierney and Mr. Brougham\* very justly and unanswerably reminded Ministers of the necessity of strict retrenchment before they proceeded to new taxation, delicately informs the House that he "had hoped to hear the case argued upon its own merits, without reference to the question of who was the Ministers, or whether there were five or seven Lords at the Board of Admiralty; but in this hope he was disappointed." Poor, rich man! It is of little consequence who is Minister if he acts like a constitutional Englishman and a fellow-creature; but that it should be of no consequence to a question of fresh impositions on an exhausted people, whether or not there are no unnecessary placemen, is a piece of logic, of which no one but a hardened placeman could be guilty.

It is of the very last importance to such a question. And here we utterly deny the right of the servants of the Boroughmongers to come forward with their monstrous proposition of this new burden of three millions. They talk of the country's necessity for it, and of public creditors; but granting that the country sends its own representatives to Parliament, and has incurred the burden (which we deny,) the Ministers and their friends, and dependants, and masters, are at least a part of the country, however they may seem to be otherwise by their treatment of it; and if the governed, the middle classes, and the poor, must retrench, as God knows they have, the governors and the placemen should at least set the example, as God knows they have not. They may answer they have, in such and such matters; but we answer, they have not, to any purpose, and not, in any proportion. If the lower orders are pulled down in their cheeks and health, and deprived of their commonest comfort, what right have the rulers to their round faces and numberless luxuries? What right have they, under a calamity, which, if it ought to be at all, ought to be common, to their huge establishments, their precious wines, their balls, their feasts, and their infinite contentments of all sorts? They may shake their heads, and say they are not content; but their bad consciences will not alleviate the public burdens. Before you proceed to new taxes, said Mr. Brougham (and it was a powerful and home thrust) your pensioners and sinecurists ought to be taxed in their proportion; your placemen of four thousand ought to give up one thousand; your placemen of seven hundred pounds three hundred pounds; and so on. Aye;—this indeed would be something like retrenchment; and resemble, in a remote degree, the sacrifices which the poor are compelled to make on pain of being imprisoned or hung. But lord! the corruptionists privately laugh at all this, and shake for very mirth their knowing and worldly heads. They may laugh, and may have standing armies; and they may also, in the insanity of their callousness, absolutely make the necessity of these standing armies a ground for the proposed taxation, as Mr. Vansittart did the other night:—but the people have fixed their hollow eyes upon them. Let them take care.

Even supposing for an instant their right to impose the new taxes; another most serious question arises as to the nature of these taxes; What are they? They are as follows:—

A Consolidation of the Customs, including a duty on Foreign Wool.

A Tax on British Spirits—A Tax on Pepper—A Tax on Coffee and Cocoa—A Tax on Malt—A Tax on Tobacco—A Tax on Tea.

Of these taxes, it is calculated that the one on British Spirits is to produce 500,000*l.*;—the Pepper 30,000*l.*;—the Coffee and Cocoa 130,000*l.*;—the Malt 1,400,000*l.*;—the Tobacco 500,000*l.*;—and the one on Tea, 130,000*l.*;—making on the whole, three millions one hundred and ninety thousand pounds. The odd hundred and ninety thousand it is not thought worth mentioning, in the gentility of debate.

\* We thought that Mr. Brougham had been making holiday, (to which no man has a greater and more indisputable right, for he fairly exhausts himself in his public duties), when we unfortunately learnt, that he had been visited with severe illness. We heartily congratulate the Honorable Gentleman and his country at large, on his being able to return to his duties, only adding a hope that he will not allow himself to injure his own usefulness, by pushing his activity too far. It is impossible not to regard with affectionate admiration a man, who, brought up in party habits, acts nevertheless with so much candour and public spirit.

Now to the proposed tax on British Spirits, we shall say nothing but this:—that the consumer has at least as much right to get drunk, and drown his cares, and be a vagabond, as his rulers have to make him one. It reminds us of the old couplet on the Gin-Act:—

Why will you make us *coolly* think?

If you must govern, we must drink.

The tax on *Pepper* seems added merely to make a shew of something imposed exclusively on the rich; yet *Pepper* enters, we believe, in numberless varieties of cookery, high and low, only it can be dispensed with by the poor, whereas the rich would not relish their fourth bottle without a devil. "Every inordinate cup is unblessed; and the ingredient is a devil." Then there's the undercrust of veal pasties.

The tax on Coffee and Cocon also seems to fall on the rich; that is to say, fall, in the sense of a feather falling, or slumber falling on their eyelids. But more of Coffee presently.

*Malt*.—The word is a small word, but eloquent and loud. Let us see what Ministers and their hirelings say to this; and first for the last—upon the Christian principle of exaltation, which it must be owned they richly deserve. The Malt-Tax, saith the *Courier*, is to "the amount, of one half the duty which was paid upon this article during the war, or 9s. 4d. per bushel. This is estimated to produce 1,400,000*l*. The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed, however, and indeed proved from positive calculations, that his tax *ought not* to have the effect of occasioning any increase in the price of Beer, that important beverage of the working classes. The total repeal of the war duty had produced no corresponding diminution, as was expected, in the price of beer. The brewing of a quarter of Malt, which in May last year cost 9*l*. 16s. 8*d*. would now cost only 6*l*. 17s. 4*d*. The Government proposed to take 9s. 4d. for the public, leaving a balance, in favour of the Brewers, upon the difference of the two prices above quoted, of 2*l*. 10s. We do hope therefore, that no attempt will be made to increase the price of beer upon the pretext of this tax. The remaining articles are," he continues, "British spirits, 500,000*l*. Tobacco, 500,000*l*. Coffee and Cocon, 130,000*l*. Tea, 130,000*l*. (to be raised from 96 to 100 per cent. duty); Pepper 30,000*l*. In looking at this list, it is *pleasing* to observe, that, none of the commodities are among the prime necessities of life, if we except beer, and that, as we have shown, *ought not to be at all affected by the proposed duty*."

Ought not to be affected! Oh the moral duties of malt liquor; and above all, of the brewers! And oh! the exquisite innocence of Ministers and the *Courier*! Yes; this barefaced nonsense is not confined to the demi-official journalist;—it is also gravely advanced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He undertakes to prove to the House, that the repeal of duties on Malt did no good to the poor, and yet that the imposition of more *ought* to do otherwise! It seems incredible; but let the reader judge for himself. "Nor was the third reason assigned for the repeal of the duty, namely, that it would give the poor the advantage of having their beer at a more moderate rate, proved by experience to be better founded than the others. The price of beer certainly fell for a short time after the repeal of the duty; but then it again rose; and it was at the present moment as high as it was at the highest period both of the duty and of the materials. He thought he should be able to prove that the additional duty which he meant to propose, namely, half the existing duty, or one shilling and two-pence a bushel, not only would not call on the brewers to raise the price of beer, but that under its operation, they would still be enabled to lower the price to the public. (Hear! and a laugh.)"—And then he goes on to quote the statements of the Brewers themselves, as if the profits still proveable by those statements would induce them voluntarily to forego greater, or incur the least avoidable expense! He also, in the course of the debate, professed it as his opinion, that "it was a matter of comparative importance, whether the new resources were to be raised by one tax or another,—although he allowed that care should be taken in the selection of such imposts as might be least injurious to the country."—To the country! To the Bronghmongers, he means; or what was the meaning of this gross assertion, followed up by this apparently contradictory acknowledgement?

Heavy announcements are these for all you, who can still afford to get the refreshment of a little malt liquor after your daily toils and vexations! The Ministers are to raise more money on your few remaining refreshments, and you are to rely on the abstract virtues of Brewers for having it taken out of their own pockets instead of yours!

But what does the *Courier* mean by saying that the proposed Malt-Tax is the only one that falls on the lower orders? Writers who make such assertions as these have no choice left them, but to be charged either with gross impudence or gross ignorance. On whom, we should like to know, is the tax upon Tobacco to fall? and on whom, above all, the tax upon Tea? One would think, by the *Courier's* talking, that the use of Tobacco was what it was at the first introduction when SPENCER ranked it with Nephenthe,—quite a fashionable and poetical thing,—the very breath of gallantry, and rolling cloud of heaven-descending wit. Unfortunately it is now almost confined to cyder-pellars, and a few good old country Parson *Adamses*, and to labourers and others of the lower orders at their evening refreshment. Let him take a vulgar walk into

the suburbs, one of these delightful evenings, and on the benches outside of every alehouse, he will see dozens of carters, waggons, bricklayers, and carpenters, soothing the toils of the day by inhaling this pleasant herb. These are the men on whom the Tobacco-Tax will fall. As to Snuff, which we suppose is included, that part of the tax will indeed fall, like the feathers before mentioned, upon wealthier people; though their other luxuries would enable them to leave it off better than the good old Gentlewomen and play-goers who survive the last generation, not to mention the old Scotch and Irish of the lower order. Your Diplomats, however, will certainly have to contribute a mite or so on this head, out of their large possessions; for how could they dispense with those very argumentative pinches, which outweigh all that they observe in the intervals?

But does the *Courier* know, or pretend to know, a little of the resources, to which his Masters have driven the poor in order to get a comfortable sensation, that he considers the tax of Tea as not affecting the lower orders? It affects the poorest of the poor, and those too of the most respectable kind,—the domestic poor. With great numbers of these, who rarely touch meat, the day is broken into bearable portions with bread and tea. They take it, chiefly because they can afford nothing better, and partly, as Dr. Johnson took it, to quiet their spirits. "With tea,"—to use his words, or something like them,—"with tea they welcome the morning, with tea they solace the noon, and with tea they endure the night." Does not the *Courier* know this? Let him get an invitation from a brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has a manor and a large wood near the poverty-stricken town of Mallow, and the more squalid village of Bissom, his own Bissom. Let him go there, and peep into the huts, and hear toiling families, hopeless of this earth, singing Methodist Psalms, and see fathers of families sit on their last miserable bedstead, cutting lime-pegs, for which they are obliged to pilfer sticks out of the fine Bissom wood,—and hear of another who has drowned himself opposite the great house,—and of another who has been shot by the gamekeeper; and out of these families, he will find ninety out of a hundred who are regular drinkers of tea instead of eaters of dinner,—if tea it can be called. Some, of a more daring expenditure, may arrive at a little bad coffee, in order to give a colour to their beverage; but the greater part tea; and what will they say to the tax? They will say as much as their long habits of patience and their feeble voices will allow them; and the great men in the manor will say—

"Work and get more."

"Sir, we can get no more work."

"Then go to the parish."

"Sir, the parish says it has no more money for us."

"Neither have I."

Yet these are to have the money for the lords of the manor!—Oh shame! shame! shame!

We have met with nothing in the Ministerial newspapers that at all serves to confute any part of what we have before said on this subject. The main fact, in particular, of the tendency of these new taxes to press upon the poorer classes, remains undisproved. Indeed the supposed organ of Government, *The Courier*, seems on the present occasion to avoid puffing as much as possible, conscious that the best music it can make must be discordant. It calls to mind the text in scripture,—"*We have piped to ye, and ye have not danced*."

It is only the usual ministerial pretence, on this as on all other occasions, that the taxes do not press on the lower orders; which is as much as saying, that the poor do not drink spirits, beer, or tea, or smoke tobacco; while on the other hand, the rich are seen exclusively with pots of porter in their hands, and pipes in their mouths; or if not exclusively with pots of porter, at least with cups of tea and glasses of gin. Let us repeat the pleasing list. There is

A new Consolidation of the Customs, including 200,000 <i>l</i> . of increased duty on Foreign Wool	£500,000
A Tax on British Spirits, near	500,000
A Tax on Pepper, near	100,000
A Tax on Coffee and Cocon	120,000
A Tax on Malt	1,400,000
A Tax on Tobacco	500,000
A Tax on Tea	130,000

Of these, the tax on Malt is the only thing that might be supposed to fall on the poorer classes; and then those good Samaritans the Brewers are to intercept the blows, and take them upon their persons! But British Spirits, Pepper, Tea, Coffee and Cocon, and Tobacco, the taxes on all these are to fall upon the rich! And how so? Have the poor then nothing to do with such articles? Observe the dilemma. According to objectors to these taxes, they almost all fall upon the poor. According to the *Courier*, Malt only might fall; so that if we are to believe this Government organ, a poor Englishman has no longer any thing to do with a cent to his back, pepper to his turnips, a cup of tea for his afternoon, a pipe of tobacco to his mouth, a pinch of snuff to keep him awake to his labour, or even a glass of gin to stay his hungry stomach! Our old friends, the washerwomen (with whom Mr. Gifford was so afraid of being supposed to have had any acquaintance) no longer take their fa-

your beverage on tubs turned upside down; you never see people smoking at alehouses, or barrow-women taking a pinch of snuff; thousands do not resort to gin, any more than the latter, for the benefit of starvation, good morals, and the revenue; and the people are to be presumed safe from the new duty on wool; because they have not means enough without getting in debt to put on a decent coat on Sundays. A blessed finger-cutting logic.

But the fact is, as these logicians would tell you privately, taxes are made purposely to fall on the poorer classes; and for two reasons—first, because the poor cannot so easily dispense with the articles taxed as the rich;—and second, because they are not Boroughmongers, and their votes are of no consequence.

Both these reasons go hand in hand. If the Ministers were not afraid of the rich,—if the rich themselves, who legislate, and who throw out the tax on property because it really came home to them, were resolved not to tax their own pockets;—there are many articles of almost exclusive consumption among them, from which money might be raised. For instance, there is scarcely a house perhaps at the west end of the town, tradesmen's houses not excepted, where a piano-forte is not to be found. Why then not tax musical instruments? We should be sorry to see obstacles thrown in the way of any elegant enjoyment; but how many families are there, not trading, who would give up their piano-fortes for a tax? Not a dozen; and if there were, with all our love of music, we should rather that the poor should have enough left them to eat and drink, than that the rich and others should be exempt from paying for their luxuries. There is printed music, too, upon which the music-sellers get an enormous profit, charging a price which is quite absurd in proportion to any other other species of printing. Why not tax printed music? Then again picture-frames, why not tax them? Why not tax also chandeliers, wax-candles, marble, plate-glass, the exclusive possession of game, grounds of certain dimensions and uses, houses of certain dimensions and uses, civic idleness or the being of no profession, ermined robes, diamonds, titles, &c. &c.? The taxation of many of these things would not even obliquely touch the poor. Imagine the crop from a good head of diamonds.—Let Lady Castlereagh's for instance. Imagine the noble loungers made to pay for their eternal gazing. Imagine the multitudes of game becoming at last worth something to the poor, to whom at present they are a continual temptation, provocative, and spectacle of injustice.

But no! The feasters by wax light,—the supercilious steppers up marble stair-cases, the exclusive possessors of game, who kill a half-starved poacher,—the dwellers in princely houses presenting you with landscapes in their plate-glass-windows as you go,—the loungers, the ermined robe-wearers, the sparklers in superfluity, wedded to their diamond-snuff-boxes and diamond headed dames,—these are the makers of taxes and the sellers of seats,—and how are they to be expected to bear burdens in common with the sore and bent-down shopkeepers of the middle and lower orders?

**Finance.**—The conduct of Ministers with respect to finance certainly presents a remarkable picture of inconsistency and irresolution. When they find their own plans will serve them no longer, they appoint a Committee, who recommend, as the result of their own invention or at least construction, some measure that the Opposition have been urging for many years, a little modified (often for the worse) to give it an air of originality. The Ministerial orators then praise the wisdom and industry of the Committee, the plan is gravely adopted, and Ministers receive congratulations on their liberality. Some of them are candid and sensible enough to confess their change of opinion, as Mr. Peel did; but Lord Castlereagh, who has all the blundering characteristics of his countrymen without any of their frankness, always makes some half-witted attempt to repel the dreaded charge of being converted to Opposition principles, and generally commits some egregious and palpable mistake,—caught in the web of his own sophistry.

Of the new taxes and their aristocratical principle we have spoken in another part of this paper. One curious matter in the debate on the proposition was the rant about the Sinking Fund. This very completely illustrates our preceding remarks. When Mr. Grenfell made a motion the other night respecting the appropriation of this fund to make up the annual deficiencies, and clearly showed that a considerable sum would be saved from the cormorant loan-contractors by so applying it, his arguments were met by some assertions of the Chancellor's about the great use of the Sinking Fund in keeping the market steady, &c. Now, whether they have really changed their plans, or whether they thought they could not raise a loan large enough to keep up the force any longer, they come forward with their financial plans for the year, in which no provision is made for the old Sinking Fund, but they say that we must now have a "real and effective" fund, which implies, that before we had only a mock one. This admission is good, as it will deceive all the remaining believers in the virtue of a borrowed Sinking Fund; but we do not think with Mr. Ricardo, that the confession is an "honest" one; it is either the result of an inability to borrow the money necessary for its support, or of a conviction of the ridicule

that would follow an attempt to delude still longer by such a well-understood artifice. Lord Castlereagh, however, rather than admit a change of opinion, gives an account of the reasons for giving up the old fund different from that of his financial colleagues. He makes out that it was a matter of justice to put a stop to the too rapid growth of his darling. "But what," he asks with all imaginable simplicity, "would be the result of allowing the Sinking Fund to go unmolested? It would be destructive to the property of the country. There must be a period when a stop is to be put to the accumulation of this Fund." Here the Noble Lord arrives at the highest point of his absurdity, and he may now look back upon his progressive advances at his leisure, from the time when he first sported the elegant phrases of "fundamental sources," &c., and talked of certain people "turning their backs upon themselves," to the present moment, when he turns his back upon his former friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and asserts to have felt alarm at the amazing reduction of the debt by a fund composed of borrowed money, by which that debt was increased in the same or a rather greater proportion than it was paid off.

One of the great defects of the Opposition is, that they seem to have resolved to oppose every thing that comes from the other side of the House. As if there was not enough to condemn in the plans of Ministers, they find fault with what is not at all objectionable. For instance, Mr. Thorneycroft and others call the abandonment of this Sinking Fund a great "breach of faith to the public creditor," because the inviolability of the fund was guaranteed at different times by Mr. Pitt and Lord Sidmouth. Had they attacked that guarantee as a deception or a piece of ignorance, they would have had good ground for animadversion; but here is the breach of faith in avowing the truth on this occasion! The fundholders derived no real security, but rather the contrary, on account of its expense, from this delusion; and if it is bad faith to undeceive them it would have been good faith to have continued the mystery till they found it out, which they could not fail to do in a very short time, even supposing they did not know it before. This is not a politic course for the Whigs; it tends to make their opposition to really injurious and oppressive measures appear to be only the result of a regular system of hostility to Government, and to confound all distinctions and degrees.

It appears from the Budget, that there is a surplus of income over expenditure of two millions, which is to be devoted, along with the three millions to be raised by the new taxes, to the establishment of a real Sinking Fund for the reduction of the debt. But in the first place, will three millions be raised? There is such a thing as winding up the chord of taxation too much, and causing it to snap. The present weight of taxes has, in conjunction with other causes, created a great deal of distress; and it becomes a question whether a fresh duty on a particular article will not so lessen its consumption as to render the sum raised by it no greater or even less than before? The duties on articles which are not common necessities will very likely be thus affected.—Next, supposing the new taxes to be as productive as they are calculated to be, is it conformable to the acknowledged principles of political economy to take large sums of money from a distressed people, and to lay them by, the nation obtaining no more than the interest, while they might be left in the pocket of the subject, there to accumulate by the natural and rapid means of trade, &c.? And would he not be a more efficient tax-payer in a few years, in case of emergency? Is not, in short, the prosperous condition of a people a greater resource than the possession of a few millions of capital?

There is another statement of Mr. Vansittart's, which doubtless gives great consolation to Lord Castlereagh, as he may be assured that the new "real and effective" Sinking Fund will not make any of the alarming advances of the old one for at least two years. Our readers know that the Bank Committee recommended the re-payment to the Bank of 10 millions of the money they had lent to Government. Half this sum is to be paid this year and half the next; and this is partly the cause of the present loan, and will render another of four millions at the lowest, necessary next year. The loan of this year exceeds the money paid off therefore by three millions, as the new taxes will not operate before 1820; and as we shall not, even according to the calculation of the Chancellor, pay off more than one million next year, the real Sinking Fund will not attack the debt for two years to come.

**Emperor Alexander.**—"The report," says the Chronicle, "that the Emperor Alexander is assembling an immense body of troops in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, gains ground, and gives rise to serious alarm. It is said to be for the mere purpose of a Grand Review, and that he has invited the Duke of Wellington, to be present at it—but it cannot be believed, that for the mere object of a holiday parade, he would, in the present state of his finances, incur the expense of marching his numerous armies from their distant quarters: and therefore it breeds a suspicion, that the rumours respecting his design on Sweden are not unfounded." This suspicion will be corroborated by accounts from Stockholm, dated the 24th of May, which state that the regiments destined to form the camp at Soderman are on their route

thither. A further account reports Bernadotte, also as having set out for the same place himself. At this juncture, a letter has been sent to the *Courier* by the deposed King of Sweden, in which his Majesty, strangely enough laying open his family affairs, and for no public purpose that is discoverable, not only complains of his divorced Queen, for keeping their son under her jurisdiction, in violation of the period limited by agreement, but seems to complain also of the Emperor Alexander for knowing more about the matter than himself, and interesting himself without his knowledge in the young man's prospects. This latter circumstance serves at least as a commentary on the aspersions about Sweden. As to the rest of the letter, we fear it only affords additional vindication to the deponents of this weak and unfortunate Prince. It is observed that he has dropped the title of Count Gottorp, and signs himself plain G. A. Gustafsson (son of Gustavus), which but for the letter itself would look like an acknowledgment of his alleged illegitimacy.

**Foreign Enlistment.**—The Foreign Enlistment Bill went through a Committee, in spite of the "splendid impediment," as Mr. Canning called it, thrown in it by Sir James Mackintosh, and the strong opposition from some of the cleverest men in the House. The question lies in a small compass. It is this:—Is it or is not neutrality to interfere on behalf of Ferdinand to prevent the succour to the Patriots which the admission of the cause produces from individuals in England, the State remaining neutral? And is not the King of Spain the very last person in whose favour we ought to interfere?—But nobody mistakes the meaning of this legitimate attempt, or is deceived by the Ministerial cant about preferring honour to interest.—Great good has arisen however from the discussion of the matter, and we congratulate all the best feelings of our countrymen and the world at large, on the notice taken by Sir James Mackintosh in Parliament of Ferdinand the Seventh, a creature whom he justly designates as too contemptible for the very expression of contempt. He is beneath, not notice indeed (unfortunately), but beneath obloquy itself. The lowest fathom-line epithet cannot reach him. Such notice as that of Sir James cannot but have effect. The poor reptile will shake and endeavour to hide him in his mud, at the very thrill of this free breath running over the waters.

**South America.**—The accounts from South America are very contradictory. It appears certain that the Royalist General Morillo has been making a dash at Angostura, the chief town in possession of the Patriots; and it appears equally certain that, after pursuing the army of Bolívar, without being able to bring them to action, he was obliged, in consequence of measures they had taken to strip the country of supplies, to retreat. Now the accounts agree in stating that a battle had taken place between him and Paes, an Independent Commander, but the result is stated differently. Indeed, no official intelligence of the battle has been received. In the mean time, the English Volunteers were arriving in considerable numbers at the island of Margarita; and an expedition, chiefly composed of them, was about to land on the coast in possession of the Royalists, and perhaps to push on to the Royalist capital—the city of Caracas. This expedition is said to be about 3000 men, a large body for that country, and more valuable from many of the men being our disbanded veterans. A letter from Port Spain, dated April 22, speaks of the people as being delighted with the representative Government established by the Patriots. No wonder either, after their long and sad experience of the Government of the Spanish Viceroy—of the worst tools of the successive despots in Europe.

Nothing has yet been heard of the expected attack on Lima; but the official assumption of the command of the Chilean fleet by Lord Cochrane has been ascertained by an account in the American Papers, of a sort of dispute between his Lordship and the Captain of a frigate belonging to the United States, about the etiquette of saluting on entering the port of Valparaiso. The American Editors, with their characteristic gaseonade, trumped up a story about an attempt of Lord Cochrane forcibly to hinder the departure of the American, who nevertheless passed out of the harbour in such bold style, that the ships (manned partly by English sailors) dared not molest him! The official correspondence between the Noble Lord and this Captain shows, what indeed we must have believed without it, that this is all a fabrication.

**Spaniards.**—The following passages, literally translated from six sermons preached in Caracas, in 1816, have just appeared in the daily papers. The sermons are printed and circulated by order of King Ferdinand's Governor, sanctioned by the Archbishop, and commanded to be read after divine service in all places where the Spaniards had the upper hand. We should like to know how many recruits their exceeding stupidity and impudence added to the Patriot Armies. When the reader reflects that it is Ferdinand, whose divinity-ship is so spoken of, he will think of the Egyptian vulgar, who used to worship onions and cats.

Page 20. "A King partakes of the divinity; he is another man from the moment he is invested with the august dignity.—The name itself

of Christ a name consecrated to designate the Son of the Most High belongs to him. In power he exceeds all the great, as well as the very body of his Empire, &c. &c."

Page 27. "Americans, I now address myself to you. The King of Spain are they who have always alleviated your distress: who have at all times protected you against a multitude of dangerous enemies; who have preserved you in peace and happiness; who have always been anxious for your mental improvement; careful of your productions and of those manufactures and mercantile pursuits analogous to your circumstances; and if they have deprived you of a free trade with foreigners, it has only been to preserve you from freedom, from fanaticism, and from the spirit of independence and irreligion, which people of that kind usually introduce with their merchandize.

Page 37. "Our Princes have also in their favour the sanction of the Holy See, more particularly that of Pope Alexander VI. who after most serious deliberations, by his Bull declared them Lords of the West Indies, and imposed the heaviest excommunications against whatsoever person, even Emperors or Kings, who, without special permission from our Monarchs, should interfere in the conquests of these said Indies. And can any one doubt that all the insurgents of the present day who have invaded the possessions of our Monarchs stand liable to the penalty of this excommunication?"

Page 54. "The sovereign authority of Princes does not depend on any contract they may have celebrated with their subjects, but on the will and determination of God. It is the work of divine wisdom that there should be Princes, Monarchies and Empires, in like manner as there should be inferiors and vassals. It is God who by the election of Sovereigns maintains the order of nations. There is no power in heaven or on earth that does not emanate from God. Princes receive their power immediately from God, and not from the people. That dazzling chimera of equality, which is the very principle of insubordination itself, was also, Venezuelans, that which was about to deprive this so Catholic a country of its religion and King. The freedom of worship and religion was already about to be sanctioned as a principle article of the impious plans of that system, and before these horrors were sanctioned, the freedom of conscience and of worship were seen practised among you."—[This alludes to the time when the Patriots were in possession of Caracas.]

**Prohibited Books.**—Our illustrious countryman Bentham has been complimented by the Popish Authorities with having his work on Legislation put into the list of prohibited books. In the same list are the most celebrated and popular ethical writers of all countries, including Locke, the Spectator, &c. At the same time, the Quarterly Review has been adulating him with its abuse. Mr. Southey, now the Holy Altar War is over, professes great horror for the Babylonian (what shall we call her) Lady under protection;—for such she has been for the last twenty years;—but we see they are good friends in private, and they ought to be. By the way, this fancy for prohibiting books only serves to stimulate the curiosity of speculative people; and there are abundance of such now-a-days in Catholic countries as well as Protestant. We have met with an accomplished Spanish Gentleman, who was one of a secret society that continued to read foreign philosophical works, and bound themselves together by oaths not to let it be whispered that they knew such a diabolical fellow as Locke. People may say therefore on such occasions, with Dogberry in the play, "If a merry meeting may be wished, God prohibit it."

**Berlin.**—Accounts from Berlin say that Colonel Wassenbach, the gentleman who was said to have documents in his possession formidable to the Prussian Court, and for whose seizure a good while back a neutral territory was violated by the Anti-Bonaparte King of Prussia, has been cashiered, and sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment. As he is already sixty years of age, the sentence is naturally regarded as one of imprisonment for life. We can scarcely believe, however, that the Royal Anti-Bonapartist, with all his delays of a constitution, and his hankerings after the old tyrannies, would, in the face of all Europe, sentence a man to this dreadful punishment without even a public trial. This is not a time to augment the editions of the Memoirs of poor Trenck, which has been a favourite book with the rising generation ever since it came out. They are apt indeed to consider it almost as a fable; but when they come to know the history of Frederick (the Great) himself, and that of other wilful and implacable despots ancient and modern, it reappears to their memory in all its horrors; and they partake warmly of the indignation which has already shaken thrones to their centre, and which will shake them down to the ground at last, if the heads of tyrants remain as incorrigible, as it would seem their hearts are.

\* The word Christ means Anointed; but with the Reverend Preacher's leave, the word Anointed in some phraseologies has two meanings, and besides Anointed Saints, there are such things as Anointed Scoundrels.

## Imperial Parliament,

We resume the chain of our Parliamentary Reports, in the order of their dates, having already given to our readers, the general heads and substance of the measures brought before both Houses, with their results, and now presenting them with the details.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.—JUNE 15.

#### RELATIVE VALUE OF GOLD TO SILVER.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE, after some remarks on the difference of the real and relative value of the gold to that of the silver coinage, and the impossibility of their both circulating together, under the present Mint Regulations, moved that the Judges should be ordered to attend the House on Tuesday next, in order that they might be asked their opinion, whether the gold was depreciated to the value of the silver coin, or the silver raised to the value of the gold, by the 56th of George III, and the subsequent Proclamations; and also some other questions relative to the currency.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL thought that Parliament had already sufficient evidence on this subject, without taking up the valuable time of the Judges. He did not agree with the Noble Earl that the silver coinage had driven the gold out of the country; the unfavourable exchanges had done that. Government limited the amount of silver to the wants of the people; and as gold was taken as the standard, and the two metals were prevented from competing by silver only being a legal tender to the amount of 40s. the silver coin was in fact only a set of counters, issued for the convenience of retail transactions.

The motion was negatived without a division.—Adjourned.

### WEDNESDAY.—JUNE 16.

#### INDEMNIFICATION OF WITNESSES.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN laid on the table a Bill for the indemnification of the witnesses examined relative to the Barnstaple Election, from any consequences injurious to themselves which might arise from their evidence. The Noble Marquis observed, that this protection to such witnesses was necessary, both to encourage them to speak the truth, and to remove from their Lordships the unpleasant restraint they must feel, with respect to pressing the examinations so as to criminate the witnesses. The Bill was read a first time.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 18.

#### THE LAST LOAN.

The Loan Bill was passed.—Lord Liverpool observed, that he expected this would be the last Loan that would be required during the continuance of peace, notwithstanding about 5,000,000*l.* would be wanted next year, to make good the payments of the Bank.—Adjourned.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.—JUNE 14.

#### CONTAGION FROM THE PLAGUE.

Sir J. JACKSON presented a Report from the Committee appointed to inquire into the existence or non-existence of Contagion from the Plague. The general result was, that no specific contagion appeared to belong to the Plague.

Some Petitions against the new taxes being presented, a discussion arose on the question whether Petitions against Money Bills in progress through the House could be received; and as the sense of the House seemed to be for the negative, the Petitions were withdrawn.

#### TIMES NEWSPAPER.—BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. CANNING called the attention of the House to a breach of its privileges which affected him personally. During the 25 years that he had sat in Parliament, he had only had occasion once before to make a complaint like the present, and that was against the very same newspaper as his present one was, last Session. At that time, the House had been induced not to press the matter against the paper, hoping that the warning would be sufficient to prevent a repetition of the offence, which hope was not, however, confirmed by the result. The circumstances of the present case were these: He had been absent for two or three hours on Tuesday night, during which the Hon. Member for Aberdeen (Mr. Hume) made some remarks on what had fallen from him (Mr. C.) previously. He returned to the House before the Hon. Gentleman sat down; but as the attendance was then very thin, and as he did not know that the Hon. Gentleman had said any thing respecting himself which demanded notice, he did not prolong the discussion. The next day, he was astonished at seeing the following sentence in the *Times*, in which the Hon. Member was made to say, "Ministers might laugh, but

let them look at the other side of the picture; let them survey the misery of the poor laborious industrious wretches at Carlisle, or even of the unhappy beings they meet in our streets; and he believed there would be found but one man among them who would still keep a smile on his countenance, and that would be a smile of self-congratulation from a Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Canning,) that by habitually turning into ridicule the sufferings of his fellow-creatures, he had been able to place himself so far above their unhappy condition. (*Continued cheers.*)" (*Hear, hear!*) If any man in the House, who had heard that sentence read, believed that, if not spoken, it might have been inserted by accident, he (Mr. C.) would give up the business without a word more. He had of course applied to Mr. Hume, to know whether the report was correct or not; and as soon as that Hon. Gentleman's absence from home and necessary attendance on an Election Committee would permit him, he returned an answer, which satisfied him (Mr. C.) of the misrepresentation.

On Saturday, however, Mr. Hume, having then seen the newspaper, disavowed it most completely. He had therefore no further satisfaction to obtain, when he had ascertained that the misrepresentation came from a source below contempt; but he felt it his duty to bring the matter before the House, for the sake of those Members, who would rather bear an attack of this kind than expose themselves to continued persecution from the same quarters. The libel was the more atrocious, because the wretch, be he who he might, who was the author of it, did not put it forth on his own authority, but upon that of an honorable name, in order to give countenance to his slanders. (*Hear!*) The evil must be checked, or there would be no bounds to it. [The Right Hon. Gentleman then read an article from the *Times* of that morning, in which sorrow is expressed for the mistake, but such pains, it is added, are taken to give the public an accurate representation of the debates, that error need not be defended on the plea of "*incuria fudit*," but should be attributed to the imperfections common to our nature.] What degree of incuria, he would ask, could occasion such a misrepresentation? The sentence was long and, as the House must see, not hastily composed; it could not be the result of a mistake. That it might be laid to the imperfection of human nature, he believed; for, unfortunately, one of those imperfections was falsehood, and another malignity. (*Hear, hear!*) He thought the exculpatory article was an aggravation of the offence: for it amounted to this, "Instead of complaining of accidental errors, you ought to be thankful for our general fidelity, and that we take upon ourselves this responsibility." The misrepresentation appeared on Wednesday, and the apology on Monday following. In the mean time, he had been held forth in that false light in all the Sunday and provincial papers. He hoped the House, though it might sometimes be indulgent and waive its privileges, would exercise them on this occasion, and show that it was careful of its rights. Having stated these circumstances, he should leave it to the House to act as it should think fit; and should merely add, that, after taking great pains to enquire, he had found that no Member had any recollection of any thing being said like the sentence complained of.

Mr. HUME said, that it was almost unnecessary for him to deny the words attributed to him. After coming to an explanation with the Right Honorable Gentleman, he had addressed a note to the Editor of the *Times*, informing him that he had grossly calumniated the Right Honorable Gentleman under his name, and requiring him to make an apology as public as the calumny itself. The Editor of the *Times* in reply, addressed him a letter couched in the strongest terms of regret, and expressed a wish to wait on him with an explanation of the error. He (Mr. H.) had thought fit to decline receiving him, but sent him a copy of what he had said. As far as he had examined them, the reports in the *Times* were in general very fair, and he was therefore willing to believe that the misrepresentation originated in a mistake. He had perhaps, too, deprived the Editor of the *Times* of an opportunity of making an apology to Mr. Canning which might have been satisfactory.

Mr. WYNN then moved, that Charles Bell, the publisher of the *Times*, should be ordered to attend the House to-morrow, in order that the Editor might be discovered.

Mr. BROUGHAM observed, that if a practice was created of noticing these offences, the omission of such a notice would be felt as a confession of the truth of a misrepresentation. He was afraid, if these things were all brought forward, the very beneficial communication of their proceedings to the public would be impeded.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

#### PARGA.

Sir C. MONCK recalled his notice respecting Parga, as he was sorry to find that the Treaty for the Evacuation of that place had been carried into effect.

#### CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on the Charitable Foundations Bill.

Lord CASTLEREAGH stated some of the alterations which he wished to introduce. It was proposed to increase the number of Commissioners, paid and unpaid, to ten each. That two should constitute

a Board for all purposes, save that of making Report to Parliament; in discharging those functions five should be necessary. That the salaries of the paid Commissioners should be 10,000*l.* per annum, and 8000*l.* for expenses. There was a clause also which gave to the Commissioners power to examine accounts and to convict, but not to impose fines. That was given to the Vice-Chancellor, Master of the Rolls, or a Judge of the Exchequer. The Commissioners would call upon the Attorney-General to proceed against parties for irregularities. Instead of having abuses, when made out, accumulating on the notice of Parliament, measures of immediate redress would be put into operation. It was not contemplated to extend the operation of the Inquiry to charities created by voluntary subscriptions. Any such interference might be prejudicial to their progress. The Commissioners would be required to report to the House the names of Charities having special visitors, as by the original Bill of last session. Even the Court of Chancery was not authorised to interfere with such charities.

Mr. BROUGHAM congratulated the House on this measure, as it went to restore the Bill he had introduced last session which was defeated in the Lords. He objected to the exemption of visited Charities, and if he should fail to bring the House to agree with him on this point, he should propose, as the next best measure, that the Commissioners should be armed with some means of putting the visitatorial power in motion.

Mr. M. A. TAYLOR contended, that if many of the Charities which had special visitors were shut out of the operation of the Commission, not half the good would be done by the Bill that might be done by it; and he instanced the case of Sherborne Hospital, in the county of Durham, the master of which, Dr. Bell, derived nearly 1700*l.* a year, although he was scarcely ever resident there. He remembered a school, of which the late Archbishop of Canterbury was visitor, the master of which had actually turned the school-room into a billiard-room.

Mr. BROUGHAM said, that in order to induce the Commissioners to devote themselves exclusively to the discharge of their duty it might be advisable to increase the salary beyond the proposed 1,000*l.* that they might relinquish all professional practice. This would be true economy.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, June 15.

#### TIMES NEWSPAPER—BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. C. Bell, the printer of the *Times* was called to the bar, and examined. He told the House who the Gentleman was that had reported Mr. Canning's speech. He stated, that the Reporters had the strongest injunctions from the proprietor to report impartially, but the haste with which it was necessary that the gentlemen should write their accounts, and that what they wrote should be printed rendered it impossible that any controul could be exercised over their reports.

The witness then withdrew, and the SPEAKER stated that he had received a letter from the Reporter, giving up his name.—The Gentleman was then called in, and after the usual questions and answers, gave the following explanation:—From the situation in which those who reported the debates were in the Gallery, it was impossible always to hear, or to write what was heard with perfect accuracy. He had been seated in a back row of the Gallery, and in consequence of the passing of persons in front of him, and the station rather under the Gallery, which Mr. Hume had taken, he was obliged to apply to a person before him to learn what the Hon. Member had said, and that person had distinctly stated to him the substance of the paragraph complained of. The inconvenience he had been subject to was an unavoidable cause of occasional incorrectness in reports. He had been engaged in concerns of this kind nearly ten years, and this was the first occasion in which he had given cause of complaint. The report was written the same night, immediately after the debate had taken place; the extreme haste in which it was necessary to furnish the account of the proceedings, each slip of paper being taken away by the printers as soon as the hand of the writer was removed from it, left no room for deliberation beyond that given to it in the act of writing. He had inserted the words "continued cheers" in the parenthesis. He had a certain mark for cheers, and his idea of their continuance was derived from recollection which might be incorrect. He had also inserted the name of Mr. Canning in a parenthesis. He had a strong recollection that Mr. Hume had alluded to a smile on the Ministerial Bench, and he had also heard indistinctly other words, which corroborated his opinion, that the information which had been given him that the allusion was directed personally against Mr. Canning was correct. He was at the time not able to ascertain whether Mr. Canning was in his place, and from the previous allusions which had been made to him, he had no reason to believe that he was not; for if Mr. Hume had stated, that he regretted the absence of the Member for Liverpool, no such words had reached the witness's ears; he expressed his regret that he had fallen into an unintentional error, which he was convinced would not have occurred if those inconveniences to which he had alluded were removed, and added that he might appeal to the frequent misconceptions between Hon. Members themselves, who had so much better opportunities of hearing one another, (*Cries of "Order."*)

The Witness then withdrew, and Mr. WYNN moved that the paper put in was "a scandalous misrepresentation of the debates and proceedings of this House, a calumnious libel on the character of one of its Members, and an aggravated breach of its privileges."—Some conversation arose on this motion, and several Members expressed their sense of the proper and ingenuous behaviour of the Reporter, and acquitted him of intentional misrepresentation.—Mr. Wynn said that there was nothing in the wording of the motion which imputed bad intention.—The Resolution was carried; and Mr. Wynn then moved that the Reporter should be committed to Newgate, as he thought he was guilty at all events of very culpable negligence, which deserved punishment.—Some more conversation followed this motion, and it was stated by several Members, that there were smiles on the Ministerial Bench at the time alluded to, and that cheers were heard about that time.—Mr. William Smith said, that he knew the family of the Reporter who were of great respectability; he also knew the individual himself, who had always borne the character of being a well-behaved, an excellent, and an intelligent young man.—The House appearing to consider the commitment to Newgate as too severe, Mr. Wynn moved instead, that the Gentleman should be committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.—This was accordingly done.

[In the course of this debate, Mr. BROUGHAM said, that there were other breaches of privilege of a more serious nature in the public prints, without the excuse of haste. He could state several instances of observations of the strongest nature being made by writers in the public Journals. A paper of yesterday said, speaking of his Hon. Friend (Sir J. Mackintosh) that he had made a shameless and impudent attack on Ferdinand.—Mr. Bennet also read an extract from the *Morning Post*, in which some Members of the House were coarsely and scurrilously attacked.]

#### CESSION OF PARGA.

Lord CASTLEREAGH, in presenting the papers ordered by the House respecting this affair, entered into some explanations respecting it. He contended, that we had only taken military possession of Parga to oppose the French and not with any view of ultimately retaining it; and that no British officers had given any assurances to the inhabitants that a British Garrison would remain there, to interfere between them and the Turks.

Sir C. MONCK had withdrawn his motion on account of a calamitous event. The Treaty of 1800, by which Parga was ceded to the Porte, had been abortive, as no cession ever took place; and though, by a subsequent treaty, the inhabitants had a Bey placed among them with a nominal superintendence, they had in fact governed themselves.

Sir W. SMITH said, the people of that town had been removed to an island which was totally incapable of accommodating them.

Lord COMPTON stated, that the public property of the Parguinotes was worth 500,000*l.*, but only 200,000*l.* had been given them as compensation.

Lord CASTLEREAGH assured the House that Ministers would do all they could in behalf of these unfortunate people.

Sir J. MACKINTOSH was shocked to hear it said in a British Parliament that any compensation could be given to a man for tearing him from his home. Russia and the Porte had forfeited all claim to be benefited by certain treaties, by having violated those treaties with regard to Parga; and the sovereignty of that territory was vested in the people by the noblest of all titles—that of wresting it from the invader—under the countenance too of a British fleet.

#### MORE BREACHES OF PRIVILEGE!

The SPEAKER stated that the Sergeant-at-Arms had a communication to make respecting the Privileges of that House. It was stated that a stranger was found taking notes, with his book resting on the front rail of the gallery. When desired to desist, he refused with an oath—He was then taken into custody and brought before the House. After an apology, he was discharged on the payment of his fees.

Mr. WYNN read an extract from the *New Times*, in which Sir James Mackintosh was charged with making shameless and impudent accusations against the present Government, and with vindicting Gallio fraud and tyranny in 1808. He considered this a gross Breach of Privilege. If such comments were permitted, the press would become their masters, as a door would be opened for influencing the conduct of Members. He moved that the printer be ordered to attend the House.

Sir J. MACKINTOSH was perfectly indifferent to such attacks and never wished to have his name connected with a question of privilege.

It was urged, that it was doubtful whether this was a Breach of Privilege, as the comments were on the reported speech of the Hon. Baronet; and that moreover the latter part of the paragraph referred to his conduct when he was not a Member of that House.—The question was postponed.—Adjourned.

### Notice.

The Committee of Management for the Entertainment to the MAR-  
CHIONESS OF HASTINGS, beg to give the following Notices regarding the  
Arrangements of the Evening, and to entreat the attention of Subscribers  
and Guests to them.

1. The Doors will be thrown open at Nine o'Clock precisely.
2. Two Stewards will be in attendance in the Lobby, at the top of  
the Great Stair-case, to receive the Tickets; and to deliver Checks to per-  
sons coming in Masks.
3. No Person will be admitted without an ADMISSION TICKET.
4. Retiring Rooms will be provided below, for Gentlemen wishing to  
change their Dresses.
5. Carriages and Palanquins to enter by the Eastern Gateway, and  
immediately to retire by the Western Gate.—No Carriages or Palanquins  
will be allowed to remain within the Area.
6. Hookahs will not be admitted.
7. No Servants to be admitted, except those provided by the Stewards.
8. Any Gentlemen having received an Invitation, but to whom an Ad-  
mission Ticket has not been sent, is requested to apply for one to Mr. D'Oyley,  
the Secretary of the Committee.

Town Hall, Dec. 6, 1819.

### Strictures on the Chowringhee Theatre.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,  
I learn that in the *Bengal Hurkara* of Saturday last a sugges-  
tion was offered to account for the alteration in the intended Perform-  
ances at the Chowringhee Theatre, which as it is founded on an incorrect  
assumption, apparently for the purpose of attaching an odium to your  
Theatrical Strictures, I shall take leave to contradict through the me-  
dium of your own Journal.

Without entering into the spirit or the motives of Editorial contro-  
versy, which it is gratifying to all your Friends to see you abandoning  
to its proper fate, a regard for Truth calls upon me to declare that the  
Play of *OTHELLO* was not postponed (it is not abandoned) on account  
of the "strictures and recommendations," contained in a preceding  
number of your Journal; but simply because it suited the convenience  
of the Amateurs to defer the representation of that Tragedy, until their  
leisure or their inclination should admit of the characters being, ac-  
cording to the technical phrase "cast."

With regard to the "change being judicious," as asserted by the  
Editor of the *Hurkara*, I am inclined to doubt whether any person of  
true taste would prefer a new arrangement, to the exclusion of the finest  
Work of the finest Dramatick Writer the world ever saw, particularly  
when the present favorable opportunity for representing it—our *OTHELLO*,  
our *IAGO*, and our *DESDEMONA*—be taken into consideration.

The fact is, that your suggestions with regard to the performance of  
Sterling Comedies and Good Tragedies, have always coincided with the  
wishes of the Gentlemen who superintend the selection of Pieces at the  
Chowringhee Theatre; but the difficulty attending the filling up of the  
numerous characters required to support Five Act Plays, has generally  
been an obstacle in the way of their representation. If the taste of that  
which Hamlet calls "the million" was the sole object of consideration,  
Farces and Melo-Dramas would certainly be resorted to, without a soli-  
tary exception, in favour of more Sterling Dramatick productions.  
This tendency, however, towards the "consummation devoutly to be  
feared" by us, however it may be "wished" by those who deprecate  
your taste, is luckily counterbalanced by a slight circumstance which  
both the Public and the Editors of Newspapers seem continually to lose  
sight of, I mean that of Amateurs selecting Plays, and performing them,  
to please themselves.

Should an authority be required for the authenticity of this state-  
ment, my name will be at your service; at present I beg to subscribe  
myself, Your obedient servant, and

A MANAGER OF THE CHOWRINGHEE THEATRE.

Dec. 6, 1819.

P. S. The Editor's information seems to have been quite as erro-  
neous with regard to the change of which he speaks, as to the cause of it;  
for instead of the two Farces *The Romp* and *Matrimony*, being sub-  
stituted for *Othello*, the Papers of the same day announced *The Liar*  
and *Bombastes Furioso*.

### Accounts from Rangoon.

To the Editor of the Madras Courier.

SIR,

The following accounts from Rangoon, having been put into  
my hands, I forward them to you for such use as you may think proper  
to make of them, and as those which have already appeared in your  
Paper, differ in some measure from these now transmitted, I have made  
some observations thereon, which you may insert or not.

On the 5th of July, the King of Ava died in his 79th year. The  
Prince Regent ascended the throne, and on the following day, a conspi-  
racy was discovered on the part of his uncles, the Princes of Promo  
and Tonghoo, the latter of whom, together with his family, were bound  
in sacks and thrown into the river—drowning being the mode of putting  
to death any of the Royal family, as directed by Birmah law. The  
Prince of Promo was fettered and imprisoned, and report says died of  
starvation.

Between 7 or 800 of those who were concerned in the conspiracy  
suffered at Ummepoora, and some few, at other principal places.

It appears the King being attacked with the complaint which  
proved fatal in three days a powder plot was laid by the Princes to  
blow up the Palace, which would it is supposed have succeeded, but  
for a continued heavy rain which damped and floated the powder.

On the discovery of the plot, immediate and decisive measures  
were taken, which in all probability (although they have been fatal to  
eleven hundred persons) have saved the country the misery of a civil  
war and much bloodshed, and have been the means of preventing an  
irruption, which would have thoroughly disturbed the tranquillity of  
the Empire, and probably have occasioned its becoming, ere long, a  
prey to some foreign power.

Orders were given for the seizure of a number of persons, in differ-  
ent parts of the Kingdom, who were concerned in the plot as well, for  
their execution, only three however suffered at Rangoon (the principal  
Port) previous to the sailing of the Ship, which brings the present in-  
telligence, at which time an order had arrived from the King to stay  
execution of such as had not then undergone the sentence of the law.

The country appears to be indebted principally for the measures  
that have been adopted to Meda, the late Viceroy of Rangoon, who was  
delivered by the late King, on his death bed, to the present, as a man  
in whom he might confide.

Mongahooezar, the present Governor of Rangoon, and of whom  
mention was lately made, as being gross and arbitrary in his treat-  
ment to the English, was on his way to the seat of Government, which  
however he was not suffered to approach, but peremptorily ordered to  
return, with the deprivation of his rank and titles, notwithstanding he is  
of the blood.—The several officers of Government in the different parts  
of the country, had taken the oath of allegiance, and the routine of  
business proceeded, as if it had met with no interruption.

The King had issued an order, to suspend as far as practicable, all  
civil law for three years from the day of his ascension, as well as to re-  
mit the levying of all land duties, and duties on goods proceeding up  
and down the river, for the like period, and to this end had abolished  
the Chokies.

About half a lac of rupees had likewise been levied on the Inhabit-  
ants of Rangoon and was on its way to Ummepoora. This money had  
reached Rangoon with orders from the King to be returned to those  
from whom it was received and to levy no further sums of money, not  
even those taxes which are customary on the King's ascension, &c. &c.

The Port charges are likewise reduced to what they were in the  
Birmah year 1045 being that of the commencement of the late King's  
reign, and which brings them down about 25 per cent.

Several other orders had likewise been issued, one giving an ac-  
count of the death of the Prince of Promo.

The account which has already appeared at this Presidency in the  
Madras Gazette, under the head of Calcutta, is stated to have been re-  
ceived from unexceptionable authority. It is not my intention to ques-  
tion this, at the same time that I may be allowed to say, that every  
one in a foreign country, especially without a knowledge of the language  
of the country in which he resides, is liable to imposition. The forego-  
ing is from an individual who perhaps had as good an opportunity of  
gaining the truth, as any other, and the account which has already ap-  
peared, is certainly by no means the current one in the Empire, in  
which these transactions have taken place.

The statements which a few months, since were made, have thrown  
odium on the Rangoon Government, and where odium is merited it is  
but fit it should be cast, and then not sparingly either—but let us not by  
hasty and partial accounts gained thro' foreigners or interested persons,  
commence with attributing to a King just entering on the Government  
of so vast an Empire, as that which is now in possession of the King of  
Ava, the character of being inhuman in such a degree, as has scarcely  
been heard of, even in the despotic countries of the East—and that to

a man, who has the character of being humane, benevolent, and generous, and is also generally well spoken of by his people.

The present account mentions the total number of those who have suffered to amount to not more than 1100, whilst the one to which it refers estimates them at 15,000—it likewise states the bodies of the Royal family to have been thrown into the sea—which cannot be the case unless it is to be taken that the River which runs thro' Ummerapoora and thence 700 miles before it reaches the sea,—in the Gulf of Martaban, was to act as the intermediate Agent to accomplish the purpose stated.

It is not my wish to trouble you with more observations to fill up an unusual portion of your present number—there are other parts however of the former statement which would bear comment. It is my only wish to give to the public, as just a Statement of what passed in the Birmah Empire, as has come to my knowledge, without intruding too much on their time or your columns, and without pulling to pieces the statement which has formerly appeared in any unnecessary degree.

Your's &c.

### Encouragement of Arts.

**Cast Iron Rendered Malleable.**—The Society for the Encouragement of Arts &c. (in France) has for these 14 years past proposed premiums for a process by which cast iron could be rendered malleable, and proper to be made into common utensils, such as boilers, stew pans, &c. usually made of copper, which is dearer than cast iron, and the use of which is dangerous and often attended with accidents. This interesting problem of domestic economy has been solved by Messrs. Baradelle and Doedor, and the Society in consequence decreed to them, on the 23d of September last, the premium offered for it.

The Marquis de St. Croix, who is a Member of the Society, has since turned his attention to the application of this discovery; and he has just had experiments made in the manufactory of Loulaux, upon pieces of this iron, which leave no doubt of their malleability and of the advantages which result from it. Pots, vessels of different kinds, nails, keys, spoons, and forks, were first rough cast, then submitted to the process of Malleabilization. The malleabilized pieces not only resisted shocks which would have fractured the brittle cast iron, but were not even broken by falls from the height of ten feet and more on the pavement. They could not be broken but by letting them fall upon stones from the height of twenty or thirty feet. These pieces were turned and filed with more facility than pewter. The broken parts, the grain of which is fine and nearly the same as that of steel, were bronzed and perfectly well soldered: the keys answered in the hardest locks as well as the usual iron keys; the nails did not rivet well, but entered easily and without breaking the hardest wood. The vessels designed for tinning received it very well, lastly the malleabilized cast iron exceeded in strength by more than one half the cast iron hitherto in use.

"The Chinese excel in this Manufacture all nations, nor is it by any means new to them. An immense tripod at the Padre-house on the South side of the water, bears date in the reign of Yuen Cheou of the Tirming dynasty. The whole of their cooking utensils are made of this metal, and Tripods Vases &c. beautifully ornamented. Amongst us a Cast Iron Vessel, with a flaw in it is rejected, and indeed is useless, because we have no method of mending them. Not so with the Chinese, every travelling blacksmith has the art, and in Canton you may witness it every day; a small hole is easily done, but we have seen them cut out pieces of an inch or two in diameter, and burn in a piece so as to make it in reality as good as new.

There have been several attempts to improve our own manufacture of this article. About the year 1760, a Mr. Wood obtained a patent for a new discovery by which he proposed making Pig-Iron malleable. This project did not succeed, nor has it done better lately. We have had Cast Anchors, but they have retained their ancient brittleness so as to have again grown into disuse.

Mr. Eton mentions a discovery by an Arabian at Constantinople of the art of Casting Iron which was perfectly malleable when it came out of the Mould.—(Survey of the Turkish Empire p. 227.)

The celebrated Reaumur published an Essay (about the year 1772.) on the art of rendering Cast Iron ductile and fit to be forged, and a Manufactory of it was set up in France, but afterwards given up from whence no other inference can be drawn but that it did not succeed.

Since this it has been discovered by Mr. Duford, Director of the Iron works, at Montaine, that Cast Iron at a certain degree of heat is as easily cut as wood with a common saw; this was verified at Glasgow in 1818.

[Bombay Gazette.

Printed at the Union Press, in Garstin's Buildings, near the Bankshall and the Exchange.

### Domestic Occurrences.

#### BIRTHS.

On the 5th instant, the Lady of Philip Yorke Lindsay, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

On the 5th instant, the Lady of J. B. Inglis, Esq. of a Son.

On the 3rd instant, Mrs. G. Sheppard, of a Daughter.

At Bancoorah, on the 1st instant, the Lady of H. M. Pigon, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

At Madras, on the 16th ultimo, the Lady of Charles Fullerton, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

#### DEATHS.

On the 3rd instant, the Infant Daughter of Mrs. G. Sheppard—four hours after its birth.

On the 2d instant, at Berhampore, in progress to the Presidency, preparatory to embarking for Europe, Major Thomas Lawry, C. B. aged 39 years, to those who were acquainted with the private virtues and professional talents, which so eminently characterized the deceased, any eulogium would be superfluous; yet it may not be wholly unnecessary to record, as some consolation to distant friends now anxiously anticipating the return to his native country of a Relative whom, alas! they are never to behold; that in the Corps he commanded for many years, he was respected and beloved—beloved alike in his private and in his public character; and that among all the Officers of the Bengal Army, whose Military achievements, have been rewarded by the distinguished notice of their Sovereign, no one received that honor more meekly; that his chivalrous gallantry on the Heights of Malown proclaimed, that by none was it more conspicuously deserved.

A Letter from Muttra, dated Nov. 20, 1819, says—"Lieutenant Kerr, of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Native Infantry, died at this place the day before yesterday. He was I believe the Author of several Pieces of Poetry which have appeared in the *Calcutta Journal*, dated from Muttra and Signed W. They but too truly describe the feelings under which he suffered, and which I believe, were the cause of his death."

### Shipping Intelligence.

#### CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flag	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Dec. 3	Asia Felix	British	M. Bradshaw	Alleppe	Nov. 6

#### CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Nov. 30	Surry	British	T. Hart	London
30	Franklin	French	B. Thiriot	Bourbon
Dec. 3	Eliza	British	B. S. Woodhead	Persian Gulph
3	Shaw Allam	Arab	Tyrer	Bombay
5	Nestor	British	Ed. Theaker	London
5	Nader Shaw	Arab	Nacoda	Muscat
5	Glide	Amrcn.	E. Ford	Salem
5	Stephens	Amrcn.	J. R. Stanhope	New Port

### Nautical Notices.

The Eclipse, that sailed from this port about a month ago, and for which apprehensions had begun to be entertained, passed Madras within 9 miles of the shore on the 10th of November, but could not get back into the Roads till the 18th, when Sir William Rumboldt, Sir John Gordon, and other Passengers landed at Madras,—all well.

On the 28th October 1819, in Latitude 3° 28' S. and Longitude 74° 51' E. from the Meridian of Paris, Captain Chevelanre of the French ship *Mercur*, whose arrival we lately announced, met with a mast of schooner, the whole lower part of which was burnt. Captain Chevelanre supposes it to have belonged to the three-masted *Gorlette Six-Sœurs*, *Hodoul*, which was burnt at sea half an hour after her departure from Mahé in August last.

This mast had certainly travelled a long way, as we find in the *Feuille Hebdomadaire* of Bourbon of the 22d September, that the *Six-Sœurs* burnt at sea on the 1st of August at 1 past 8 before Noon, in Latitude 28° 18' S. and Longitude 91° E. from Paris. The Captain, Officers and Passengers bestowed themselves to the long-boat, in which they reached Digue Island on the 9th. All the negro-slaves were ordered, some of them forced, to return to the wreck, where they must have perished, as the whole vessel was soon seen in a blaze of fire. The provisions on board the long-boat were so scanty, that the unfortunate navigators unanimously submitted themselves to drinking no water till noon of the 4th, although they collected three additional bottles of it from rain on the 2d. They could never succeed in kindling any fire before the 7th; and whatever meat, any of themselves attempted to taste of previous to that day, was eaten in a raw state. A negro Passenger, and the child of a negro-woman died in consequence of these hardships a little time after their arrival at Digue.

[Times.